WASHINGTON CITY.

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 18, 1857.

ATMr. HENRY M. Lawis, Montgomery, Alabama, is our general tra-

May Mr. Henny M. Lawis, Montgomery, Alabama, is our general travelling agent for the States of Alabama and Tennessee, assisted by C. F. Lawis, James O. Lawis, and Sancez B. Lawis.

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A SPEEDY RETRIBUTION.

the return to Bushire was commenced on the evening of the 7th, and at midnight an attack was made upon the force from all directions by the enemy. The confusion, owing to the darkness, and the fact that four guns of the enemy had got the exact range of our troops, was frightful. At the commencement of the attack Gen. Outram, while riding rapidly in the dark, suffered a severe fall, his horse coming down with him, and, though he rallied a little from the insensibility which it occasioned, the command was obliged to be devolved on Gen. Stalker. Had the Persians continued their fire, it is impossible to say how serious might have been our position—for most authorities concur in the statement that we did not dare to return a shot lest we should certify the enemy that they had our range. Happily, their uncertainty led to a cessation of the firing, and at daybreak they were found drawn up in order of battle upon our left rear, 6,000 or 7,000 strong, with five guns in position. Our artillery and cavalry dashed at them at once, and the rapidity, precision, and heavy superiority of our fire, made such fearful havoe in their ranks, that in less than an hour 700 dead bodies strewed the plain, and their army was flying in all directions. The cavalry, consisting of the Poonah Horse and 3d Lancers, rode through, and nearly destroyed a whole regiment drawn up in square, to attempt a check to the storm which swept over them. Our infantry had not a chance of nearing the enemy at all. Two guns fell into our hands, a hundred prisoners, and the whole ammunition of the force. Had we possessed another thousand horse (Jacob's Scindians had not yet reached Bushire,) hardly a man would have escaped to the hills. The rapidity of the Persian fire has been much noticed; their guns are said to possess longer range than ours, and the bearing of this arm of their force amply justifies the encomiums which modern travellers have concurred in bestowing upon it. After the engagement we buried our The strong hold which Robespierre undoubtedly had upon the Jacobin clubs may in part be attributed to his frugal habits, indifference to wealth, and the supposed rigid integrity with which he administered sublic affairs. Handling millions of the people's noney, it is said of him that he not unfrequently lacked the means to purchase a dinner. True or false, he had the credit of being poor, when he could have willed himself untold riches; of being inflexibly nonest, when a departure from the path of strict inegrity could not easily have been detected; and his dmirers, consequently, were disposed to regard his brutal, bloody excesses, not as the workings of a wicked, deprayed, and malignant spirit, but as the zealous acts of a man who appeared to be free from all selfish motives, and who was willing to sacrifice his own life in the sacred cause of liberty.

guns are said to possess longer range than ours, and the bearing of this arm of their force amply justiles the encomiums which modern travellers have concurred in bestowing upon it. After the engagement we buried our native dead on the field; the bodies of the three Europeans who fell being carried back to Bushire. Our loss was happily very small—three Europeans and seven natives being the number of our killed, and the wounded but 62 in all. We are sorry to announce the name of Lieut. Frankland, of the divisional staff, among the former; and of Captain Forbes, 3d Light Cavalry; Captain Mockler and Lieut. J. Greentree, of her Majesty's 64th, among the latter—the first and the last severely. The troops bivouncked for the day close to the battle-field, and at night resumed their march on the way back to Bushire, where the greater portion of the force arrived about midnight of the 9th, the remaining troops coming in on the 10th. It is seldom that a force is called upon to perform so rapid and harassing a march as that thus successfully terminated. Our men twice covered a distance of between 40 and 50 miles in the same number of hours, and this through a country all but impassable from the torrents of rain that accompanied them the whole way in going and returning. The result certainly is very satisfactory, and the expense of the movement has been well recompensed thereby. Bushire, in the absence of the force, was garrisoned by a naval brigade landed from the ships, and the entrenched camp by companies told off from each regiment, to the number, including the sick left behind, of 1,500 men, under the command of Colonel Shephard. The brig Euphrates was moored high and dry, so as to command with her guns the passage which connects the pennsula with the main land. An attack was talked of as As long as "the three thousand clergymen of New England" were supposed to be men of pure morals, of upright lives, and sincere in their peculiar constructions of the duties of the ministerial office, the great mass of their followers were disposed to countenance what we deemed and others deemed a desecration of their pulpits, and to adopt views which, if carried out, would have led to anarchy, disunion, and civil strife. It was in vain, during the late presidential canvass, that the democratic press protested in indignant terms against the dissemination of the wildest and most treasonable doctrines from the sacred desk; it was in vain that they protested against mingling of religious with political affairs; and, brig Euphrates was moored high and dry, so as to command with her guns the passage which connects the peniasula with the main land. An attack was talked of as impending, but none transpired. Meantime our position there is being strongly entrenched and fortified, in view to leaving it with a simple garrison, that the force may be available for service elsewhere.

Since the date of our last, a part of the 14th light dragons have embarked for the Gulf, and the 4th troop horse artillery and a company of Madras sappers and miners. The Scinde horse, from Kurrachee, must now be on their way. It is supposed that five other regiments of native infantry are to be despatched also. for the time, it was in vain that they pointed out the serious injury which would be inflicted upon the cause of true Christianity by this attempted union of Church and State. But acts speak londer than words; and the acts of too many of these political, priestly dictators, as revealed to an astonished and disgusted public within a few weeks, have opened the eyes of no inconsiderable number of their dupes to the monstrous character of the frauds which had been practised upon them by their dissolute and hypocritical advisers. We will not shock the delicacy our readers by following the subsequent career of tain full particulars of the news from Nicaragua brought the East. Although juries have failed to agree, and "The Tennessee brought on twenty-five men recently connected with Walker's army. They are in a state of pitiable destitution, poorly clad, gaunt with hunger and privation, and penniless. They are all rejoiced, however, to have escaped from the perils of Nicaragua on any terms. We have had a conversation with a number of them, intelligent young Americans, who agree on the following particulars of news since the last arrival, bringing an account of the attack on Castillo March 36. of justice, public opinion in all sections of the Union is pretty well agreed as regards the infamy of their

In more than one instance has retributive justice

FURTHER NEWS FROM NICARAGUA

by the steamer Tennessee. The Journal of Commerc

count of the attack on Castillo March 30.

'The report of the capture of that place and a large loss of Lockridge's men proves to be entirely unfounded.
Col. Lockridge advanced on the town with some 200 men.

but, seeing that it was in possession of a far superior force, prudently retreated to Kelley's, where he was joined by Col. Titus's battalion. The whole force, including about eighty sick and wounded, numbered some 270 men; of these, 160 were newly arrived Texans. The soldiers were

these, 160 were newly arrived Texans. The soldiers were nearly destitute of provisions, and were put on an allowance of one cracker a day, no meant, and a cup of very weak tea without sugar. The disabled were stowed away in a temporary hospital made out of an old shed 40 feet long and 20 wide, devoid of all accommodations. They had nothing softer to lie on than the rough bamboo floor, peculiar to houses in that country. Medicines were scarce, and the small stock on hand was almost worth-

less, and there was only one army surgeon to attend to the wants of all the patients.

"In this desperate condition of affairs Col. Lockridge concluded to make one more attempt to join Gen. Walk-er now at Rivas, by the way of the San Juan river, Pana-

er now at Rivas, by the way of the San Juan river, Pana-ma, Aspinwall, up to San Juan del Sur, and thence to Rivas, about 15 miles from the latter place. On the lat

service. He had been disappointed by the non-arrival of bombshells and mortars from New Orleans, without which he would be powerless before the enemy's fortifications.

responded by advancing from the ranks and cheering. Some of the men who remained behind expressed their

lisapprobation by groaning.

"The whole force, those who still stuck to Walker's

fortunes, the malcontents, the sick, and wounded, then went on board the steamers J. N. Scott and the Rescue, which were lying at the beach ready to take them down

The New York evening papers of last Thursday con

ectional party in the State of Maine celebrated their election last fall, they showed their dependence on the few clergy who chose to soil their hands and garments with the mire of abolitionism, by inviting them to a prominent place in the celeration. One Rev. J. S. Kalloch was called down from Boston to Rockland to be the orator of his party. He indulged in the most abusive language that could be used in regard to the democracy. Common decency would have dictated the respectful mention of the name of Mr. Buchanan, the successful chief of great and triumphant party; and the long public services of General Cass, from the war of 1812 to the present moment, would have called for respectful mention, if mentioned at all. Such common decency demanded; it would have come spontaneously from the lips of a gentleman : the lower impulses of Chris-Rivas, about 15 miles from the latter place. On the 1st of April he accordingly called all of his men together who were able to stand in the ranks and addressed them.

"He complimented the soldiers on the bravery and patternee which they had exhibited under the severe trials to which they had been so long subjected. He regarded the taking of the forts up the river as practically impossible, and did not ask the men to volunteer on any such tian duty would have restrained any man from vulgar abuse. But this Kalloch, a political priest, made the vilest allusions to the President of the United States, and to General Cass. And he took occasion the control of the United States, and to General Cass. And he took occasion the control of the United States, and to General Cass. And he took occasion the control of the United States, and to General Cass. And he took occasion the control of the United States, and to General Cass. And he took occasion the control of the United States, and to General Cass. And he took occasion the control of the United States, and to General Cass. And he took occasion the control of the United States, and to General Cass. And he took occasion the control of the United States, and to General Cass. And he took occasion the Cast in the world. He inverted the usual course, which is said to be characteristic of energy—a word and a blow; he put it thus: A blow and a word. [Cheers and laughter.] the scholarship, the piety, the purity of the land. In less than six weeks from the time that Kalloch made this speech he was advertised in the Boston he would be powerless before the enemy's fortifications. He then proposed to lead them to Gen. Walker by the route above specified. He wanted only those to accompany him who were perfectly willing to go and could speak good English. The sick, wounded, and persons desiring to return to the States, he would take to Punta Arenas, where they could wait for the first chance to go home. He asked those to step forward who were willing to make the effort to join Gen. Walker. About 100 men press as fleeing from justice; was summoned to ome back and stand his trial for adultery; was not acquitted, but is pronounced guilty by twenty-two papers out of twenty-four; and is in all respects a dead man morally—more so than if he was in the grave; while Mr. Buchanan is the foremost man in the world, and General Cass is in a position second only to the President in point of dignity and influence. So speedy a retribution, and so forcible a contrast between the accuser and the accused, seldom occur. Justice in this case has been swift of

INTERNATIONAL COURTESY

which were lying at the beach ready to take them down the river. A barge, carrying a six pounder, a four pound-er, two smaller pieces of artillery, and the small remain-ing store of bread and meat, was taken in tow by the J. N. Scott. The sick were placed in the J. N. Scott, princi-pally on the second deck. The Rescue also carried a gun. "On the first day of their voyage down the river, when nearing Fort Slatter, two of the flues of the Scott ex-ploded, but without doing any serious damage. The steamer put in at Fort Slatter a short time for repairs, and resumed her course. On the afternoon of the second Upon the application to our government of the Russian ambassador at Washington, orders have been ploded, but without doing any serious damage. The steamer put in at Fort Slatter a short time for repairs, and resumed her course. On the afternoon of the second day the Scott stopped at the beach, about 32 miles from Kellys, and a mile and a half above Serapiqui, for the purpose of making a reconnoitre of that place, as it was expected that the Costa Ricans were entrenched there ready to give the steamers a warm reception as they went by. The steamer Rescue, about a quarter of a mile behind the Scott at that time, was to be sent on this mission. "Shortly after, as the Scott touched the beach, the boiler-head blew out with a terrible explosion, killing three men outright, and wounding and scalding about forty others in the most shocking manner. A large number were blown into the river, which fortunately was only 7 or 8 feet deep at the sterr, of the boat.

"Among them were General Wheat, well known in this city, who, as soon as his head appeared above water, called out to the boys not to jump overboard, (which some of them were about to do.) but to remain where they were. The Rescue soon came up, and rendered an essential service in picking out the afferers from the river and taking them off the boat. The force of the explosion proved to have been prodigious, tearing away the whole of one of the wheel-houses, the second deck where ssued (says the Journal of Commerce) to Capt. Hudson, of the steam frigate Niagara, to receive on board his ship (about to depart for Europe to participate in laying the ocean telegraph) a captain and a lieuenant of the Russian navy, who are now sojourning in this city, that they may have an opportunity to Society:" witness the accomplishment of that great enter-

OUR NEW MINISTER TO CHILL

The Elmira (New York) Daily Advertiser, an oposition paper, thus speaks of the appointment of ex-Governor John Bigler, of California, as minister to

Chili:

"If Mr. Buchanan is as happy in all his appointments as in the above selection, he will give but little room for fault-finding, politics aside. From a long personal acquaintance with ex-Gov. Bigler, we can bear our testimony to his worth as a man; the only fault we ever could seriously bring against him was his unflinching adherence to the democracy, whether right or wrong. He was born and raised a democrat, and to-day is about forty-five years of age; but the man cannot be found who can say that Hon. John Bigler ever wavered in his attachment to democracy, or failed to vote for a ticket of that party on election day."

er and taking them off the boat. The force of the explosion proved to have been prodigious, tearing away the whole of one of the wheel-houses, the second deck where the bar was situated, the topdeck abaft the wheel-house, and considerably damaging the hull.

"The Rescue proceeded with the wounded to Serapiqui, where six or eight of them soon died. The remainder were then taken to Punta Arenas, several dying on the way or soon after their arrival there. The whole number of deaths resulting from the disaster is believed to be about 25, and of the wounded alive, at last accounts, 18. Among the dead are Maj. Morry, Capt. Haight of New Orleans, and Lieut. Conklin, of New York. On reaching Punta Arenas the proposed expedition to join Gen. Walker We learn that Mr. A. M. Keiley has become asso-Orleans, and Lieut. Conklin, of New York. On reaching Punta Arenas the proposed expedition to join Gen. Walker was abandoned as impracticable. The men who had expressed their willingness to accompany Col. Lockridge refused to go on. The sick and wounded were placed in an old roofless shed. The provisions were nearly all consumed, and the stock of medicines quite exhausted, and it is not probable that many of the suffering can revive unless assistance is speedily rendered by the English fleet in the vicinity." ciated with Mr. A. D. Banks in the editorial departpent of the South Side Democrat. The Richmond Enquirer says: "Mr. Keiley is already well known as a writer of decided ability, and his accession to the columns of the Democrat will add to its already enviable reputation as a stern and unflinching advocate of democratic principles."

the attention of American readers.

In reply to the accusations that he was "the firebrand of Europe," and "a European calamity." his lordship said:

"I was accused of exciting revolution everywhere, and disturbing the peaceful state of Europe. Now, gentle men, what I did, and what the government, of which men, what I did, and what the government, of which I was the organ, did, was to encourage and support, as far as we could with propriety, those nations who endeavored to improve their institutions, (cheers,) and to obtain, for themselves the blessings of that parliamentary government which we in England have so long enjoyed. I didn't incite the people, or encourage the nations to seek for internal changes which could not be reasonably accomplished; but when they were possible of accomplishment, then we said here is our hand—we will lead you complished; but when they were possible of accomplishment, then we said here is our hand—we will lead you on, and trust you may reach the goal which you are honorably striving to obtain. We had a great deal to do with the independence of Belgium, in which we were opposed by a distinguished member of the House of Commons, who was adverse to what we were about, and who characterized it as an experiment of the 'noble lord'—meaning me. [Laughter.] But, gentlemen, this independent monarchy, unlike many experimental farms which we witness—[laughter]—turned out a very successful undertaking, and that people have now a king of their own choice, and enjoy a degree of political liberty and happiness which few of the nations on the continent have had an opportunity to share. Well, then, again, in Spain we took part with the people against the pretender who had inscribed despotism on his banner, and supported the Queen who had freedom and the constitution inscribed on her flag; and though we succeeded, and though Spain has not carried into practice those great principles, yet still she has a Parliament, and where the forms of freedom exist, depend upon it, gentlemen, sooner or later the substance will follow. [Cheers.] Well, then, in Portugal we supported the Queen against her usurping uncle, who had the support of many in this country who ought not to have supported his cause, and Portugal, I am happy to say, is in a greater degree enjoying the practical application of parliamentary government. [Cheers.] Well, then, gentlemen, all these things Portugal, I am happy to say, is in a greater degree enjoy-ing the practical application of parliamentary govern-ment. [Cheers.] Well, then, gentlemen, all these things being accomplished without engaging this country in war, yet those who contributed in this country to these happy results are by some gentlemen called the firebrands—the great calamities of Europe. [Hear, hear.] And, there-fore, when I am told that my policy is turbulent and aggressive, whey, then, gentlemen, I appeal to the past and evidence is not wanting in regard to these accusa ions when applied to the future.

His lordship, we think, was unfortunate in alluding Spain and Portugal as successful instances in which he had "intervened" for the sake of securing the blessings of a partial representative government, such everal of the most notorious Fremont clergymen of as now is in force in England. It will be perceived that he makes no allusion to what part he took duin other instances the culprits have become fugitives ring the great popular uprising in Europe in 1848. If our memory serves us, the struggle in Hungary and in the Germanic and Italian States was in part for the same identical "blessings" which his lordship aided in securing for the more favored kingdoms of Spain and Portugal.

overtaken these priestly firebrands. When the His lordship next spoke of the pending difficulties with China, and in the course of his remarks paid his respects to the United States after this fash-

> "We are often told to look to our cousins in the Uni-"We are often told to look to our cousins in the United States as models of conduct, and there are some things to which they might just as well took to us, [a laugh :] but it we beg of the advocates of peace to address themselves with 'eyes right' to the United States, pray what did their commander do in this very difficulty in China in comparison with our officers, civil and naval? Why, there was a boat belonging to one of their ships-of-war fired at. Well, that was a great insult; but there might have been an excuse made for it that we were engaged in these hostilities with China, and it might have been said that this American was taken for an English boat. It is true the officers in that boat waved the American flag; but the Chinese that boat waved the American flag; but the Chinese might have said that is a well-known strategy of war, and you wave the American flag to deceive us; we be-lieved it was an English boat, and therefore fired at it. But did the American commander, like Sir Michael Sey mour and Sir John Bowring, demand an apology, and de mand that a similar thing should not occur again? No after destroying that fort he sent to the commissioner to say an insult had been offered to his flag, and he hoped for an apology [cheers] and an assurance to the effect that it would not happen again, [cheers:] and he gave twenty-four hours for this apology and explanation to be sent to him; but before these twenty-four hours had expired the ship which was lying near this fort saw something or other going on which the officers shrewdly imagined were for renewed defence, if not for renewed attack. Well, this American officer, without waiting and writing to the United States to know what to do—without waiting for orders from Washington—he did not wait out waiting for orders from Washington—he did not wait even for twenty-four hours to expire; but he said 'No, no, Mr. Chinaman, this won't do; you are throwing up fresh batteries and putting in fresh guns;' and he com-menced the demolition of the fort, and took possession of these guns before the time had expired which he had given the Chinese commissioner in order to make his archery and explanation." out waiting for orders from Washington-he did not wait pology and explanation.

> Without stopping to inquire whether the case was fairly stated by the Minister, we may be permitted to observe that his lordship forgot to inform his Tiverton constituents that, whatever difficulties may have existed between this country and China at the time he speaks of, they have since been fully and amicably settled.

We close our extracts with the Minister's eulogium on Sir John Bowring; and our readers will be surprised to learn that, notwithstanding Sir John's bellicose acts, "he was formerly secretary of the Peace

cose acts, "he was formerly secretary of the Peace Sciety:"

"Well, gentlemen, great injustice has been done to Sir John Bowring. [Hear, hear.] Sir John Bowring was chosen by me to go as consul to Canton, and when a vacancy at the government of Canton occurred, he was transferred to it by Lord Clarendon. But what is Sir John Bowring, and what was he? It has been said to be the fashion to place in responsible situations none but members of the aristocracy—it had been the fashion to say these appointments go by favor and not by merit. He was not a member of the aristocracy; he had not a powerful influence to protect and support him; he was a man like many others in this country, and as many others will. I hope, continue to be—he raised himself by his own ability and exertions—[cheers]—by his Industry, his talents, and his attainments he raised himself to the high position in which he is now placed. Was he a man of wild temper—a firebrand? Why, he was formerly secretary of the Peace Society—[cheers]—a man of the quietest, most kindly, and benevolent disposition—a man, I believe, who never had a quarrel with mortal man—who loved peace—whose life had been devoted to questions connected with the social intercourse of nations—with commerce—with trade—with the removal of all impediments which checked and confined the intercourse of nations; he had been employed, in conjunction with Lord Clarendon, to arrange a better tariff of duties between Austria and England; and he was, therefore, peculiarly adapted to the office, which consisted mainly to guard the commercial interests of this country in our commercial relations with a nation like China; and he was, therefore, one of the last men to misuse his power, or to plunge his country into difficulties and war.

SPEECH OF LORD PAIMERSTON ON THE CHINA QUESTION.

As the Prime Minister of Great Britain is virtually the executive of that kingdom—the fountain of power, place, and patronage—any declarations on his part in regard to the foreign or domestic policy of that comis try are eminently calculated to produce the liveliest impressions both at home and abroad. On the 28th of March, after the election in Tiverton, (which place he has represented in Parliament for many years.) Lord Palmerston attended a banquet, and, in answer to a tost proposing the health of "her Majesty's minister," reviewed, in an ehaborate speech, the most important questions of the day. The crowded state of our columns this morning will only permit us to make auch extracts from the agency and extracts from the speech as are likely to attract the attention of American readers.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT AND THE CASE OF R. W. THOMPSON.

We have delayed to notice the gross attacks on the head of the Treasury, and others connected with that department, simply because we learned, upon inquiry, that the Attorney General was preparing an opinion in the case, which would probably be ready in a few days. When that opinion is ready for publication, we shall take the subject up, and, with the facts already in our possession, shall endeavor to place the whole matter in its true light. In the mean time, we find in the Pennsylvanian some carefully-prepared remarks, explanatory and defensive of the action of the Treasury Department in that case, which we have great pleasure in transferring to our columns :

"Our remarks on Tuesday last upon the exposure of the anonymous calumny against Mr. Cobb, the Secretary of the Treasury, and upon his Assistant, Mr. Clayton, though written with no other information than that which the mere correspondence supplied, proved, as we had no doubt they would prove, to be well founded. A more careful examination into the case has served to confirm and to fortify these original impressions; to exhibit the guilty baseness of the man who sought to strike his blows upon an honest administration from the midnight cloak of secreey; to establish the upright, just, impartial, and careful action of the Treasury Department in the matter of the claim of R. W. Thompson, of Indiana; to vindicate from every shadow of suspicion or blame the character of Mr. Clayton, the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; and, finally, to fasten upon the clandestine assailant—now no longer chandestine, but notorious—the ignominy of adding to his stealthy stabs the proof of having fabricated almost the entire foundation upon which his allegations rested. "Our remarks on Tuesday last upon the exposure

his allegations rested.

"The facts which follow are given upon such authority

"The facts which follow are given upon such authority as cannot be questioned.
"Richard W. Thompson, of Indiana, presented to the Thirty-third Congress a claim against the Menominee Indians. At the second session of that Congress a provision was put in the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill to pay the claim. As it appears in the act, it is as follows: That in accordance with the memorial of the Menominee Indians to the President and Congress, dated the 4th of October, 1854, and executed in General Council of the various the Secretary of the Treasury pay to Richard W. October, 1854, and executed in General Council of the nation, the Secretary of the Treasury pay to Richard W. Thompson, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, one-half of the amount stipulated in said memorial, and in an agreement of said Indians with said Thompson, dated 15th February, 1851, for his services as attorney for said Indians—in the prosecution of a claim in their behalf—for additional compensation for lands could be them to the United States. claim in their behalf—for additional compensation for lands ceded by them to the United States by the treaty of 1848, and that the sum so paid be deducted from the annuities when due and payable that are to be paid to the said Indians under the treaty of the 12th May, 1854, and the amendments thereto. This act was passed and approved 3d March, 1855.

"After the passage of this act, it was alleged that the following proviso had been made to this provision for the payment of Thompson, to wit: 'Provided that the same be paid with the assent of the Menominees.' On an examination of the journals of the House and Senate, it appeared that this amendment had been added in the House

peared that this amendment had been added in the House and agreed to in the Senate. Either the journals were wrong, or the proviso had been accidentally emitted in the enrolment of the bill. Under these circumstances, the former Attorney General Cushing gave it as his opinion that the President and Secretary of the Treasury would be justified in withholding the payment of the money, until Congress had an opportunity of correcting the error in the enrolment of the bill, if such error had been made. In the mean time, Thompson undertook to obtain the consent of the Menominee Indians, but was prevented, as he alleges, by the improper interference of some of the officers of the government. The payment, however, was withheld, in conformity to the suggestion of Mr. Cushing. The first, second, and third sessions of the Thirty-fourth Congress were held, thus afferding the amplest opportunities for the action of Congress. The subject was brought to the attention of Congress by a message from the President of the United States to the Senate, 10th April, 1856, in answer to a resolution of that body. wrong, or the proviso had been accidentally emitted in 10th April, 1856, in answer to a resolution of that body. It required the concurrent action of the two houses to correct the alleged error in the enrolment of the provision for the payment of Mr. Thompson. The House took no ac-tion whatever on the subject. Its silence could only be con-sidered as an acquiescence in the law as it stood enrolled, and upon the statute-book. The Senate, however, took the subject under consideration, and, after referring the President's message to one of their standing committees, took the report of the committee up for consideration in further legislation on the subject necessary or expedient, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration thereof: which report was agreed to, with the following amendment: 'Resolved, That the Senate agree to ing amendment: 'Resolved, That the Senate agree to
this report, and that the said Richard W. Thompson is,
in the opinion of the Senate, entitled to be paid the sum
appropriated by the twenty-seventh section of the civil
and diplomatic act approved March 3, 1855.'

'This action of the Senate was had on the 8th August,
1856. It will thus be seen that not only had the atten-

is of the series of the series

"Nothing more was done by Congress on the subject, Nothing more was done by congress on the subject, and the only question presented to the present Secretary of the Treasury was, whether or not he would carry out the law as it stood upon the statute-book. This action of the Treasury was, whether or not be would carry out the law as it stood upon the statute-book. This action upon the case, so early after he came into office, was not at the instance of the cloiment. So far from it, he had taken up the subject at the suggestion of his predecessor, Mr. Guthric, and had referred it to the Attorney General for an opinion before the claimant was probably aware that it was undergoing his examination. The claimant had instituted a suit against Mr. Guthrie, after he went out of office, for the claim. Mr. Guthrie called the attention of Mr. Cobb to the subject, to know if the govornment would undertake the defence of the suit; and the case was examined with a view to respond to this application of Mr. Guthrie. The examination by the Secretary and Attorney General satisfied them that the law ought to be carried out, and the money paid as the law required. This would terminate the suit so far as the principal sum was concerned, and if it was prosecuted at all, it would only be for the interest that accrued from the passage of the act. This explanation is made in reply to the charge that the case was taken up and acted upon in hot haste.

upon in hot haste.

"It will be observed that the present Secretary had nothing to do with the merits of the claim of Mr. Thompson as it originally stood; upon that he has passed no judgment. That was a question for the action of Congress. His duty was to look to the law as the only true exponent of the will of Congress, and to carry it out in good faith, according to its manifest meaning and intent. If a bad claim has been paid, it is not the fault of the Secretary who paid it, but of Congress who passed the law requiring him to do it. If it is charged that a mistake occurred in the enrolment of the law, by which an important provise was omitted, the reply is, that such a mistake, accident, or error, cannot be corrected by the executive department. That power was vested in Congress, and the opportunity was afforded themsfor the correction, and Copgress not only declined to act, but one branch—the Senate—expressly declared that no such action was necessary, and directed the money to be paid.

"The correspondent of the Herald seems to be instigated to his attack by personal malignity against Mr. Clayton, the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. The best reply to this article is to make a seriatim statement of the false charges contained in that article against this gentleman: n in hot haste.

It will be observed that the present Secretary had having

passed upon and allowed the Galphin claim, during the administration of Gen. Taylor. This is false. The claim was never before him as auditor, or in any other capacity.

The state of the s

A Letter to Gen. Lewis Class, Secretary of State.

Sin: The question before the high office which the country has had the satisfaction of seeing you called to, of the proposed abolishment of belligerent rights on the seas, is the most important that, since the founding of our government, has referred itself to the Department of State. Questions that involve the grand issue of peace or war, momentous as they may be, do not approach it in importance, for they are temporary. If ended by negotiation, they have only perturbed for a time the public mind. If hostilities be their sequence, and these be even disastrous, yet war has its end, and the State recovers. But this question is of perpetuity; to affect the nature, quality, amount, and efficiency of the belligerent resoures of our country, and consequently its relative position quality, amount, and emiciency of the beingerent resour-ces of our country, and consequently its relative position among nations, and its character, peace, and dignity for all time. If, therefore, the proposition ought not to be summarily dismissed and repudiated, it ought at least to have a free, fair, public, and full discussion before it shall be adopted. In this belief, I avail myself of your courte-countrication to address to you directly some views on ous permission to address to you directly some views of the subject, and the various aspects that the proposition

I. Ought the United States to accede to the 'declaration" of the Paris Conference that Privateering is and remains abolished?"

The manner of that declaration and circumstances at-

the manner of that declaration and dicumstances are tending it marked it with a character that, it has seemed to me, ought to have precluded it from even a respectful consideration by this government.

The despatch of Mr. Marcy of the 28th of July, 1856, to the Count de Sartiges, and the message of the President of the 4th of December, 1854, show that two years prior to the dislonantic Concress at. Paris the executive depart. the diplomatic Congress at Paris the executive depart-ment of this government had declared to each of the difment of this government had declared to each of the dif-ferent powers that were represented at that meeting, and to other maritime States, that this country could not and would not concur in a proposal to abolish privateering as a belligerent right, unless the plan should also include the exemption of private property from spollation by public vessels. It is also shown by Mr. Marcy's des-patch that this suggestion of one of the departments of our government, and also those just propositions in fa-vor of neutral commerce which this country had always insisted on, had been favorably received in several for-eign States; by four of them accepted, and with all of

then of importance negotiations in progress.

In the face of these facts, in face of the assurance conveyed directly to each of the powers concerned, that the United States would not accept of such a proposition, nor entertain it, and of the fact that they had negotiations on the same point pending with other States, the assemblage at Paris, without any notification to this country, without admitting to its councils or debates an representative of this country, and without informing this country of any of the reasons that impelled it, made thei "declaration," and had the assurance to send it to this government. Not only that. The naked declaration government. Not only that. The naked declaration that "privateering is and remains abolished," thus made in face of the assurance that such a proposition was inadmissible by this country, and yet, thus offered to us without any explanation, would seem to have been sufficient; but it was not the extent. After that declaration, in the face of what this country had declared to be its position, the Paris Conference go on to inform us that unless we agree to what we have a first observed. that unless we agree to what we have so often declared we will not agree to, certain other things that we want, and which are right in themselves and to the ad-vantage of mankind, we shall not have: i. e., if we will not abandon, in the dictatorial form in which they present the project, our rights as a possible beligerent, we shall not have our rights as a neutral. Nor was this all. The proceedings at Paris cut off peremptorily negotiations in which the United States were already engaged, and bound over several powers from concluding what they had undertaken in this country, except on new terms, terms well known that we would not consent to, and not suggested in the course of negotiation, but dictated from without. Still more. In declaring the "indivisibility" of the "four principles," and that no nation shall have the benefit of one or more of them without consenting to the whole, the l'aris manifesto, over and beyond keeping in force the unjust rules, only eyer partially consented to concerning neutrals, undertakes to establish as a law what has never been regarded but as an abuse and outconcerning neutrals, undertakes to establish as a law what has never been regarded but as an abuse and outrage—"paper blockades." That is, those nations that shall not consent to the entire dictum of the conclave, to whose councils they were not admitted, and whose reasons or motives are not communicated, shall not only not have their rights as neutrals, but shall have, as to them, an abuse interpolated as law into the existing code.

These facts and circumstances seemed, from the beginning, to characterize the "declaration" more as a menace than an invitation; and the same view has not escaped intelligent observation in Great Britain, as appears by a memorial of subjects of the British Crown offered in our Senate on the 6th of March last. Say the memo-

Senate on the 6th of March last. Say the memo

"The coupling together of a doctrine which the Uni ted States desires to establish with one that they cannot assent to shows an evil design," &c.

with which the declaration was prepared and proffered; for whatever that may have been, the conference certain-ly propose, without consultation with this government, or notice to it, and to the cutting off of its independent

or notice to it, and to the cutting off of its independent negotiations, a peremptory requisition, a sine qua non, known to be unacceptable. Hence the proceeding was not in accordance with the respectful courtesy that ought to govern the intercourse of nations as of persons.

The proposition was, however, entertained, and, not having been finally acted on, is necessarily, with its subsequent complications, before your department and the country. It is consequently to be considered.

The "maxims" of the declaration are put forth by the conference as such as "cannot but be received with gratitude by the whole world." Mr. Marcy also assumes that a "strong desire to mitigate the severities of war" was the chief inducement to the declaration. The resolutions of Mr. Senator Caittenden, pending in the Senate, further consider a kindred plan (that is, Mr. Marcy's) as "in the interests of mankind," and proper to be adopted as a consider a kindred plan (that is, Mr. Marcy's) as "in the interests of mankind," and proper to be adopted as "uncasure of American policy." The questions that arise, then, are: What would really be the effect of the adoption of the declaration on the "whole world," and how would it operate specially on our own country?

Both questions can be answered together. The effect of the declaration, if put actually into force, would operate on the world and in the conduct of wars to this extent: The commercial marine of a country, when needed to

on the world and in the conduct of wars to this extent. The commercial marine of a country, when needed to strengthen its regular navy, would be commissioned as public vessels, instead of as privateers. Their contents would consequently be severer and bloodler, and their devastation of commerce certainly not less; but with a dissertence in the character of that devastation. By privations of the content of th The commercial marine of a country, when needed to strengthen its regular navy, would be commissioned as public vessels, instead of as privateers. Their contents would consequently be severer and bloodier, and their devastation of commerce certainly not less; but with a discrete in the character of that devastation. By privateers property is converted to the captor, so not lost to the world. The capture hurts the enemy and betas the expenses of the war; but it remains to the uses of man. By the new mode that would inevitably result from the Washigners, April 13, 1837.

Washigners, April 13, 1837.

with Mr. Thompson, the claimant. This is files. It so happens that the personal relations between Mr. Clayton and Mr. Thompson were of an unfriendly character, and up to this time they hold no Intercourse, except on official abusiness.

"5. He alludes to Mr. Clayton's course as Second Auditor, and, without making any direct charges against him, seeks to create the impression that his past official conduct has been subjected to suspicion. This insimutation is false. Mr. Clayton has been in office for eight years, and this slanderer is the first man that ever reflected upon his integrity, either as a man or an officer.

"6. He insimutes that there is danger of certain charge, too, is based upon his false malignity, because he knows that these claims are not passed upon by Mr. Clayton in his present position.

"In all these charges and insinuations there is exhibited a such a reckless disregard of truth, justice, and decency, that it is difficult to assign a motive for conduct so mean and dastardly."

We call attention to the following able and interesting letter of Wm. Carey Jones, esq., on the subject of abolishing the belligerent right of privateering in the crist and the conduct of the political reason that the basis of a State so ruded coasts and the volunteers who compose it. Without entering into the question as to whether it is abolished: "The PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE LAWS OF WAR.

A Letter to Gen. Levise Cass, Secretary of State.

Six: The question before the high office which the country has had the satisfaction of seeing you called to, of the proposed abolishment of beligerent rights on the sax, is the most impropriant that, since the founding of our government, has referred itself to the Department of State. Ouestions that involve the ergand issue of peace of State. Ouestions that involve the ergand issue of peace or State. Ouestions that involve the ergand issue of peace or State. Ouestions that involve the ergand issue of peace or State. Ouestions that involve the ergand issue of peace or State. Ouesti

While regular establishments are the policy of monarchical powers, the colunter system, whether by land or sea, is essentially the policy and reliance of the United States. Great military or naval forces, to be maintained in peace so as to be ready for war, are every way repugnant to American ideas and interests, and were so declared at the beginning of our history. They are no way necessary to the purposes of government, for the government must rest in the regards of the people, and not in force applied to them, or cease to exist at all. Besides the economical objections of the enormous expenses that they entail, and the withdrawal of great numbers of men in the prime of life from productive pursuits, the American instinct has a political objection against the creation of separate banded classes, with their sympathies withdrawn from the body of the Common. against the creation of separate banded classes, with their sympathies withdrawn from the body of the Common-wealth, and which may be turned to objects not conso-nant with the institutions and liberties of the country. Nor are such establishments necessary for the public de-fence, in cuse of whatever war. This is proved by the history of all the wars that the country has been engaged in; and at this time it is more apparent than ever, from the vast increase and gallant spirit of the interior popula-tion, and the facilities which telegraph and railroad afford for concentrating numbers on a threatened point. Per-haps it would not be too much to say that at a fortnight's notice five hundred thousand volunteers, if so many were notice five hundred thousand volunteers, if so many were needed, could be brought together to defend, for example, the city of New York. In the remote and new part of the Union where I reside, and where we have not yet the facilities of railroads, I venture to state that two weeks delay would bring, in an emergency, firty thousand men, each with his own rifle and blanket, to defend the Chrysopile—the Golden Gates of our Hesperia. The United States, then, do not want a standing army to consume the substance, threaten the liberties, and emasculate the patriotic and self-reliant spirit of their citizens.

As little do they want a permanent naval establishmen beyond what is necessary to maintain the respectabilit and character of the country in remote parts in peace and character of the country in remote parts in peace, and to form a nucleus for a volunteer navy in case of war. Witness the prompt as well as efficient action of the volunteer marine both in the revolutionary war and in the war of 1812. Within forty days after the proclamation of the war of 1812 a hundred private cruisers were at sea, and at least thirty valuable captures made from the enemy and brought safely into port. Under one commander (capt. William Nichols, still living, I believe, at Newlang. Connecticut), two ways select unions were taken Newbury, Connecticut) twenty-eight prizes were taken during the war. By a single vessel (the schooner Chaseur, of Baltimore) the same number of captures were made; and by the America, of New Haven, twenty-nine Is it not credible that even these few that I have mentioned, out of near twenty-live hundred commercial captures that were made, did more to incline the encuy terms of peace than all the lives that he lost in battle Moreover, this volunteer army of the seas exhibited is repeated instances a heroism, gallantry, and skill not sur passed even in the resplendent actions that brought the passed even in the resplendent actions that brought the regular navy of our country imperishable fame. I will at this time cite but a single example out of the hundreds that the official records and authen-tic history show. The memorable defence of the pri-vateer brig General Armstrong, under Captain Reid, attacked by three vessels-of-war of the enemy, in the neutral port of Fayal, is a case that, it seems to me, no American can call to mind without a feeling both of pride and shame : pride at the gallantry, skill, and d termination shown by his countrymen in the unsurpassed action; shame that the country has not vindicated it rights in a neutral port, and that the sufferers by the vio lation of those rights, after near forty years of pursuit of it, have not yet received and are passing to their graves without their just indemnity. The case is referred to here, however, for the purpose of illustrating how the privateer service has developed in American sailors the privateer service has developed in American sailors the very highest qualities both of seamanship and manhood. A kindred fact is worthy to be mentioned in this connex-ion: how the same service has contributed to bring out the architectural ingenuity and skill that have made the sailing qualities of American-built ressels famons. I think it will be the general conclusion that the Paul

I think it will be the general conclusion that the Paris declaration that "privateering is and remains abelishel" ought of itself not to be adopted. Mr. Marcy, in his consideration of the subject, concludes that it is inadmis-sible; and the only gentleman (Mr. W. B. Lawrence) who has undertaken to yindicate by anything beyond mere phrases Mr. Marcy's own proposition supposes that "it is not too much to say that the naked proposal of the Paris Conference has not an advocate in the United is not too much to say that the maked proposal of the Paris Conference has not an advocate in the United States." But it does not follow that the consideration of the proposal ought to be dropped, except with the repudiation of the entire matter. On the centrary, it is extremely well worthy of consideration, whether, if any change at all is to be made in the laws that govern the rights of belligerents on the ocean, the 'maked proposal of the Paris Conference' is not the least Juntful form in which the modification can be reade, Whether Mr. which the modification can be made? Whether Mr Marcy's proposed addition to it would not increase the mischiefs it is calculated to produce, and especially to the interests of our own country? These points I propose to examine in connexion with—

II. Ought the declaration of the Paris Conference, with he addition proposed by the late Secretary of State of he United States, to be finally adopted by this coun-

try?

The field opened by this inquiry is large, and shall ask your leave to address a second letter to em

brace it.

Before closing the present communication, however, I respectfully ask attention to a point heretofore suggested by me in a letter to our late California senator, Hon. John B. Weller, published in the National Intelligence of 1st January last, viz. Should it be finally thought expedient for the United States to concur in the proposed new international legislation, what authority in this government has the power to give their adhesion to it? On that question I expressed the opinion that the power had not been delegated to any branch, or all the branches of the federal government, but was expressly forbidden; and that no power short of a federal convention, called according to the provisions of the constitution, called according to the provisions of the constitution, or a new authority conferr if by an amendment of the constitution could divest our country of a belligerent right that existed in it at the formation of the constitution. Perhaps the proposition might be carried further. Perhaps it may be found that the right proposed by our late Secretary to be so inconsiderately abandoned ranks, as a fational right, with that class of personal rights which are said in